

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A substantially uncharged antisense oligomer containing ~~from 10 up~~ to 40 morpholino subunits, each of said subunits supporting a base-pairing moiety effective to bind by Watson-Crick base pairing to a respective nucleotide base,

wherein said base-pairing moieties include a targeting nucleic acid sequence having the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 47 ~~at least 10 nucleotides in length which is effective to specifically hybridize to a target sequence which spans the translational start codon for secA protein within the *E. coli* nucleic acid sequence presented as SEQ ID NO: 2,~~

and wherein adjacent subunits are joined by uncharged linkages selected from the group consisting of uncharged phosphoramidate and phosphorodiamidate, or by charged linkages selected from the group consisting of charged phosphoramidate and phosphorodiamidate, the ratio of uncharged linkages to charged linkages in the oligomer being at least 4:1.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein each said uncharged linkage is a phosphorodiamidate linkage as represented by $-P(=O)(NR_2)-O-$, where R is hydrogen or methyl.

5. (Previously presented) The oligomer of claim 4, wherein each said linkage in said oligomer is an uncharged phosphorodiamidate linkage as represented by $-P(=O)(NR_2)-O-$, where R is hydrogen or methyl.

6-41. (Cancelled)

42. (New) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein the length of said oligomer is less than 30 subunits.

43. (New) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein the length of said oligomer is less than 25 subunits.

44. (New) The oligomer of claim 1, wherein the length of said oligomer is 20 subunits.